Pilot acceptance checklist

A paid pilot runs on your own hardware for 90 days, starting when the hardware is ready. Acceptance is proven by technical drills your team witnesses.

Before the pilot

- [ ] A separate head node and up to 4 GPU nodes, racked and cabled.
- [ ] Ubuntu 24.04 LTS, amd64, installed on every server. BareStax keeps your installation.
- [ ] The cluster network. InfiniBand, RoCE, NVLink, and NVSwitch are supported; plain Ethernet also works.
- [ ] Your identity source: LDAP, Active Directory, OIDC, SAML, or local accounts.
- [ ] Your shared storage targets: NFS or S3.
- [ ] For an air-gapped site, your transfer method: approved portable media or a data diode.

Drills that prove acceptance

- [ ] **Node join:** a server joins with one command and one approval.
- [ ] **Two-node validation:** the GPU, NVLink, InfiniBand, and two-node NCCL checks pass before the node takes jobs.
- [ ] **Canary update:** a signed release reaches one node first, then the rest within your disruption budget, while running jobs continue.
- [ ] **Drain and recovery:** a faulty node stops taking new work, running jobs finish, and recovery follows policy.
- [ ] **Air-gapped import:** a release bundle crosses the boundary, its signature, integrity, and compatibility are verified, and two people approve it.
- [ ] **Audit export:** the hash-chained audit record is exported for your review or your SIEM.
- [ ] **Control plane restore:** a backup is restored to clean hardware, and the old head node is prevented from answering.

After the pilot

The pilot license is time-limited. If you place a production order within 60 days, the full pilot fee counts toward the first year.